

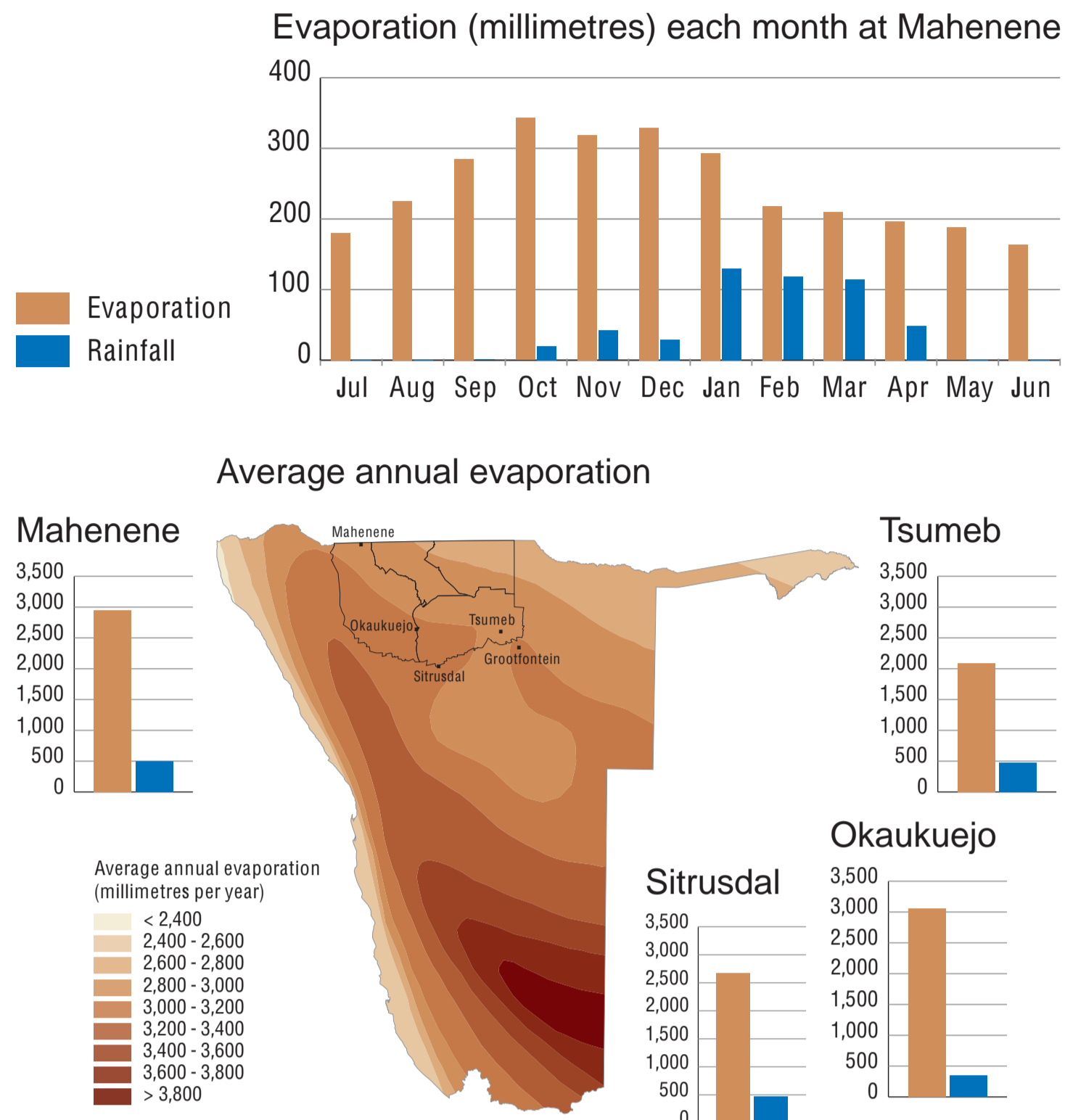
Climate of the Cuvelai~Etosha Basin

Evaporation

Evaporation varies between about 2,400 and 3,000 millimetres of water per year, which is several times more than the annual rainfall.

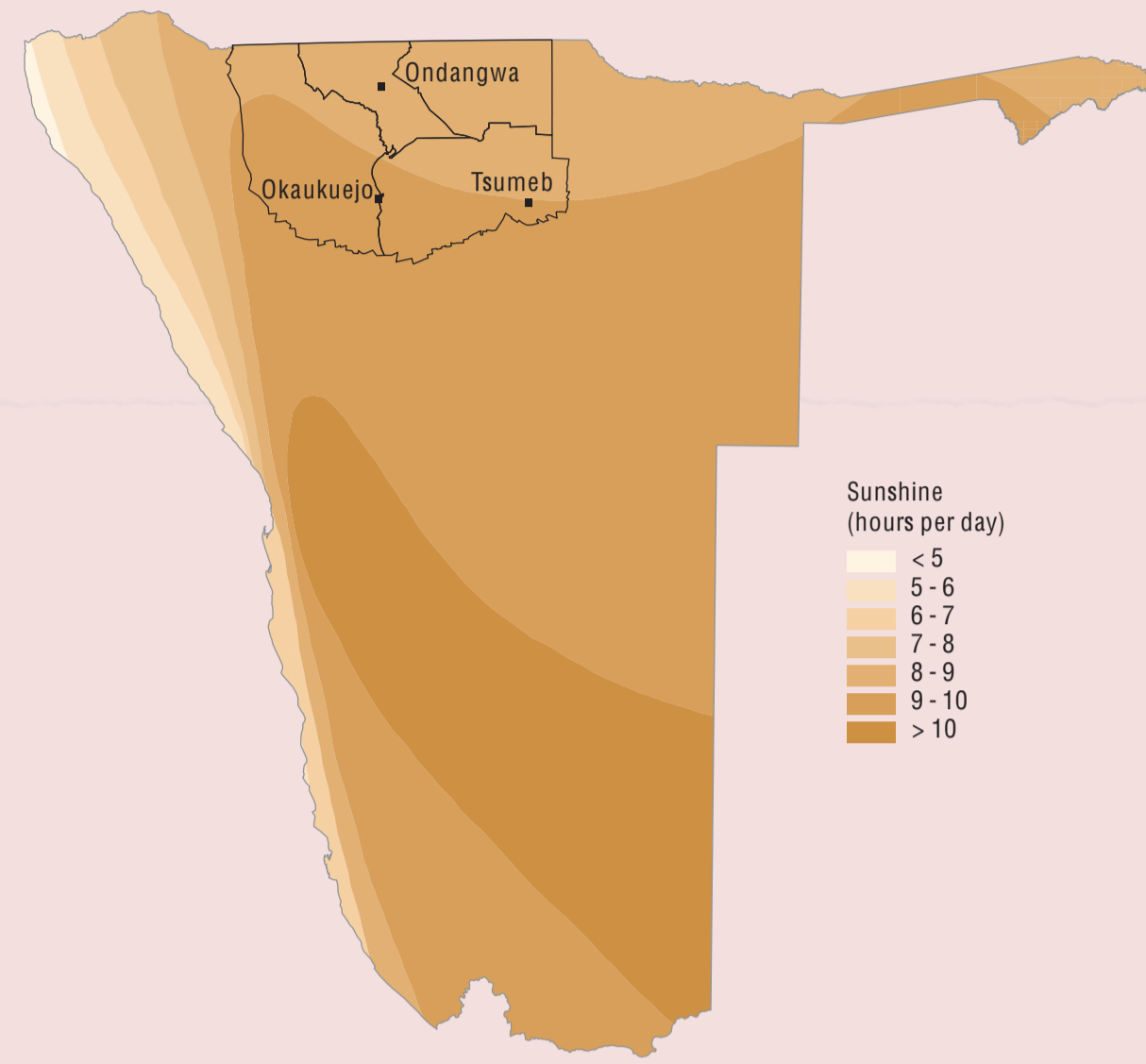
The loss of water is greatest in the early summer months of October, November and December when the sun is intense and there is little cloud to reflect the heat.

The Tsumeb area has the lowest rates of evaporation because there is more cloud cover as a result of the hilly terrain.

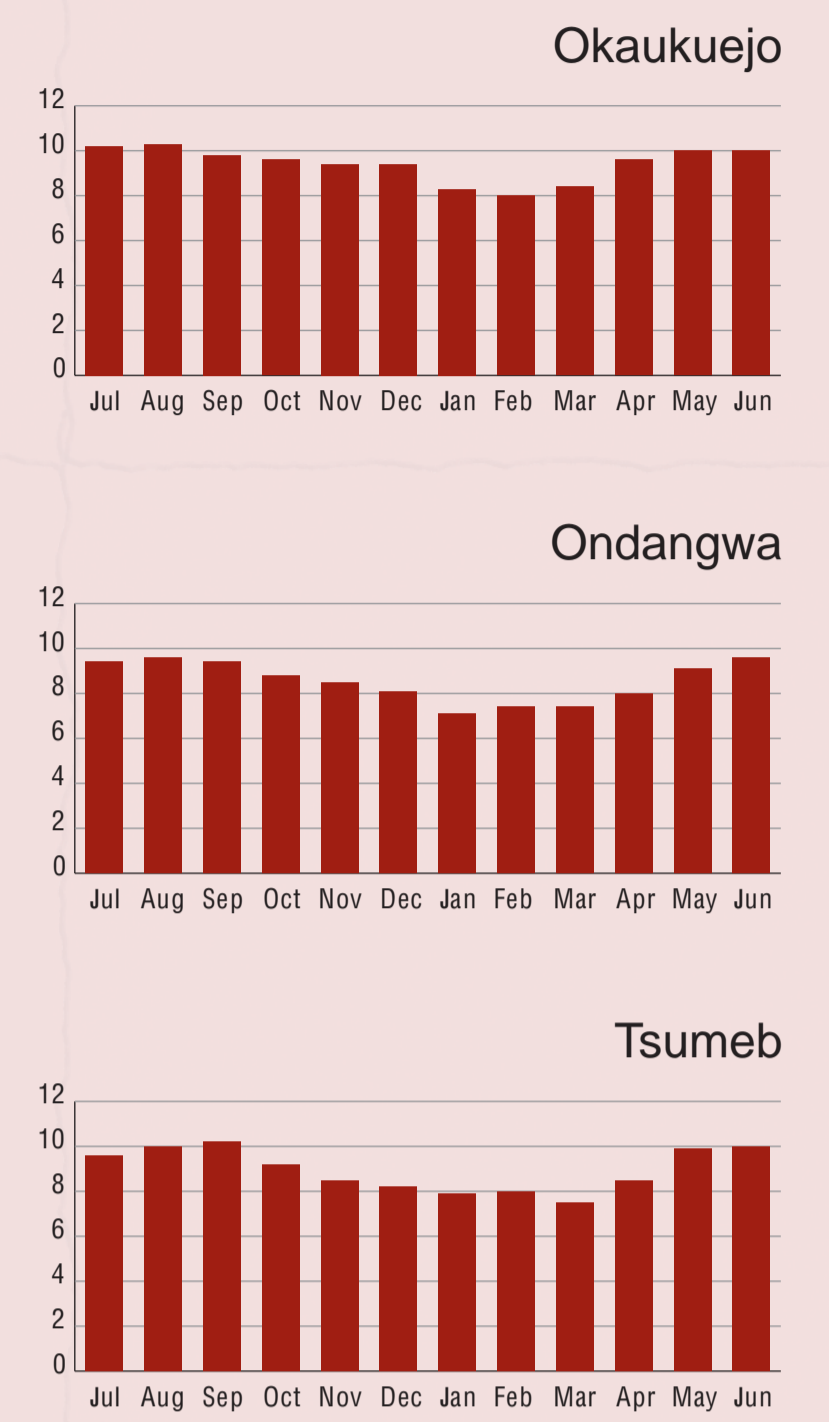


Sunshine

Average hours of sunshine per day

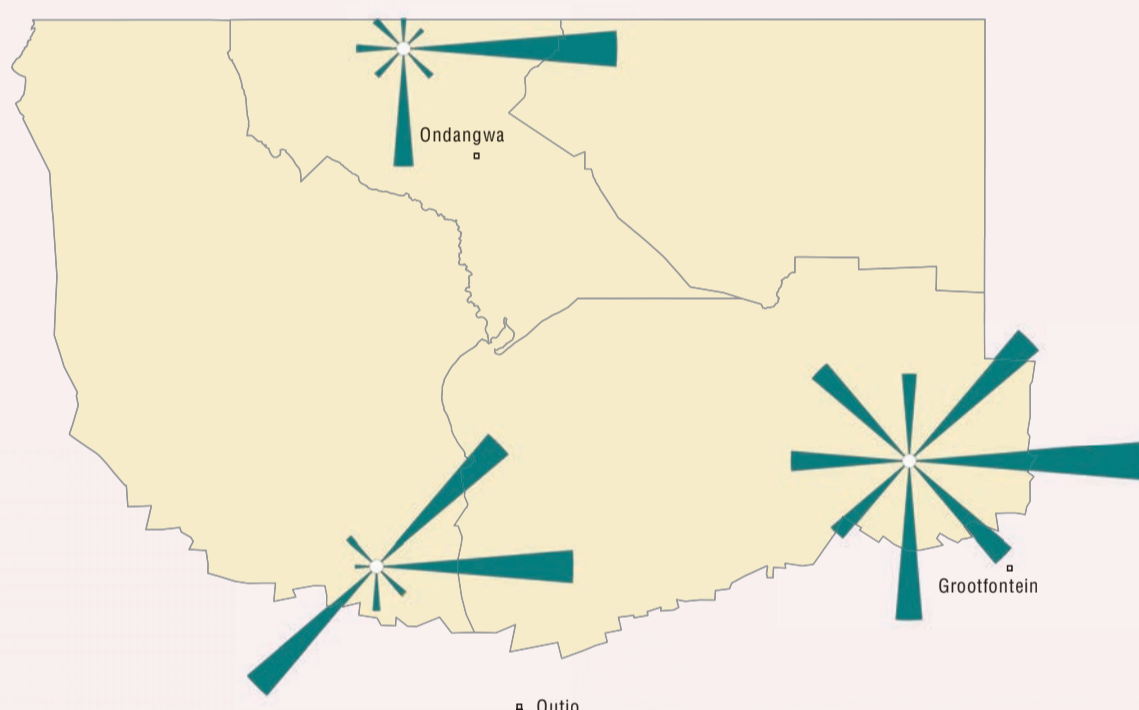


During the winter months the Basin has between 8 and 10 hours of sunshine per day. Even though the days are longer in summer, there is much more cloud cover and therefore fewer hours of sunshine than in winter.

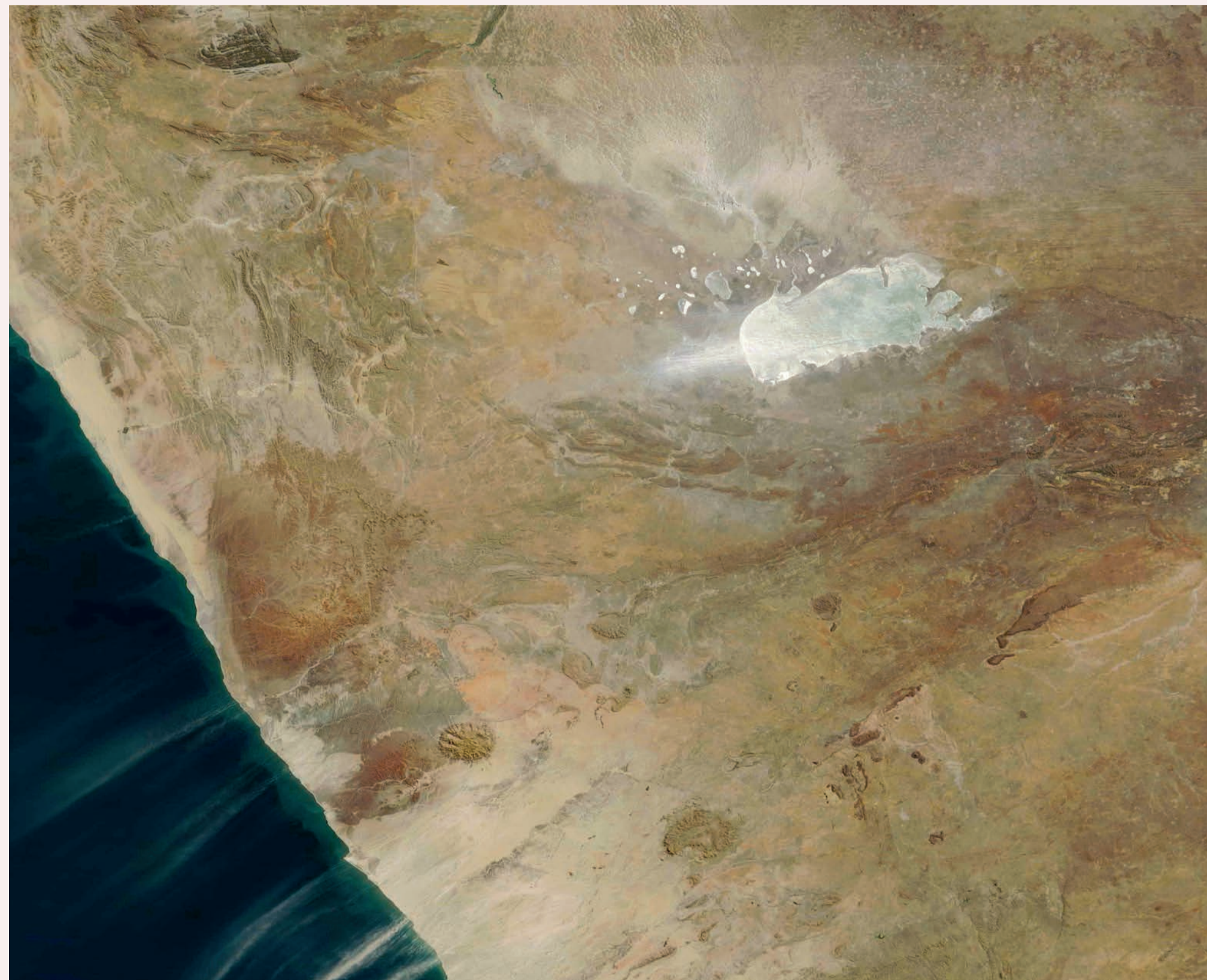


Wind speed and direction

For much of the year most winds blow across the Basin from the north-east, east and south-east, but easterly winds predominate in the winter.

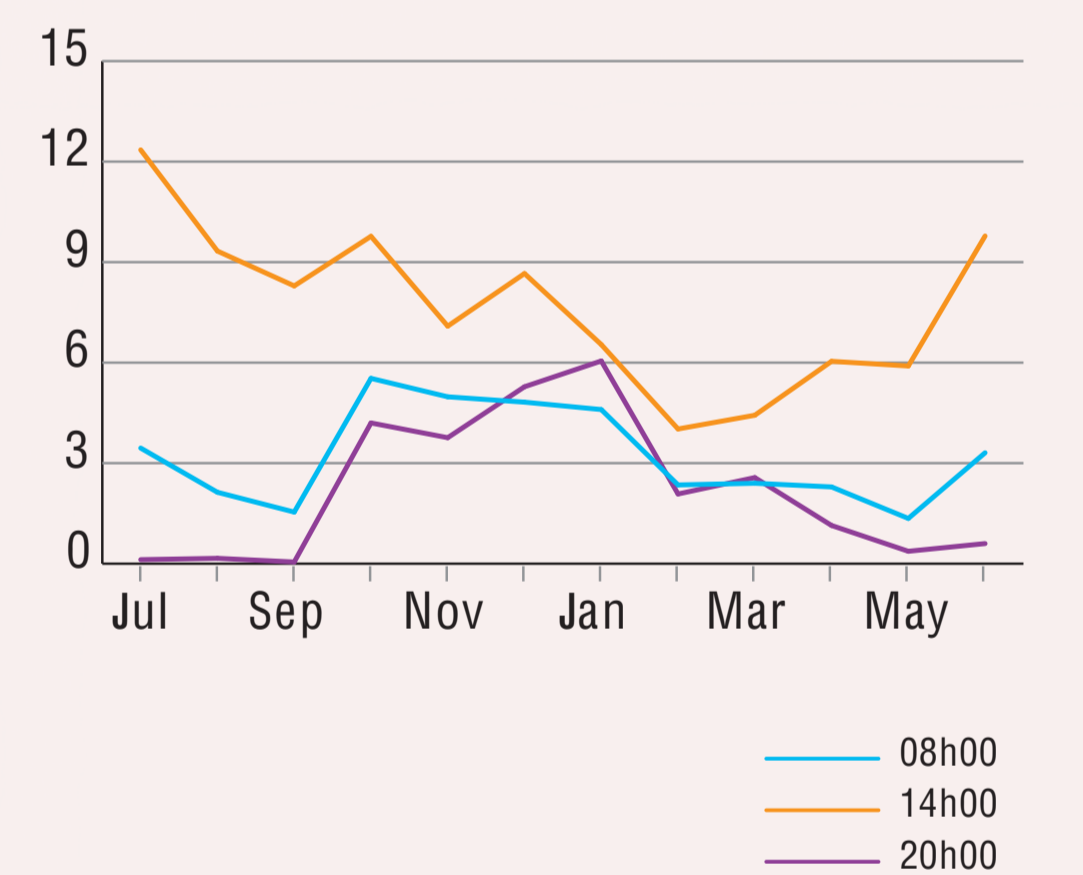


These graphs are called 'wind roses' and show the proportion of wind measured from different directions throughout the year.



Strong east winds in winter blow fine dust off Etosha Pan and elsewhere towards and over the sea. Over many years, these winds have eroded Etosha Pan so that it remains a low-lying pan rather than being filled-in by sediments.

Average wind speeds (kilometres per hour) at Ondangwa each month at different times of the day



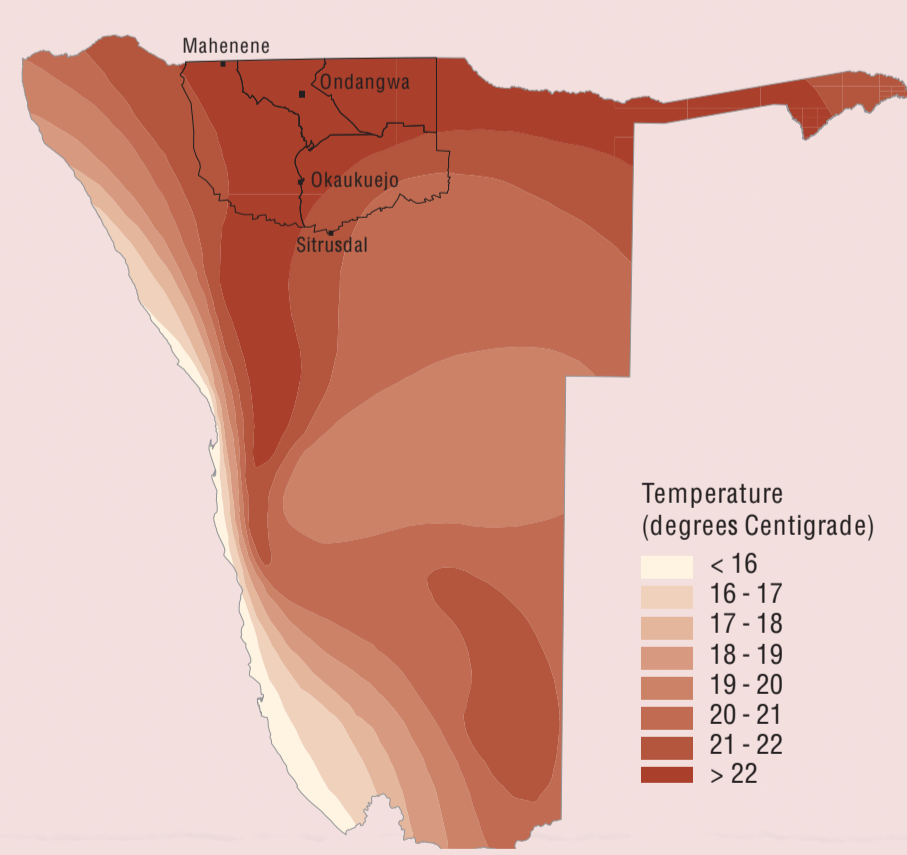
Temperatures

As a result of abundant sun and skies that are often clear, temperatures in the Basin are amongst the highest in the country.

On average, temperatures vary little across the Basin, although the south-eastern and south-western areas are slightly cooler.

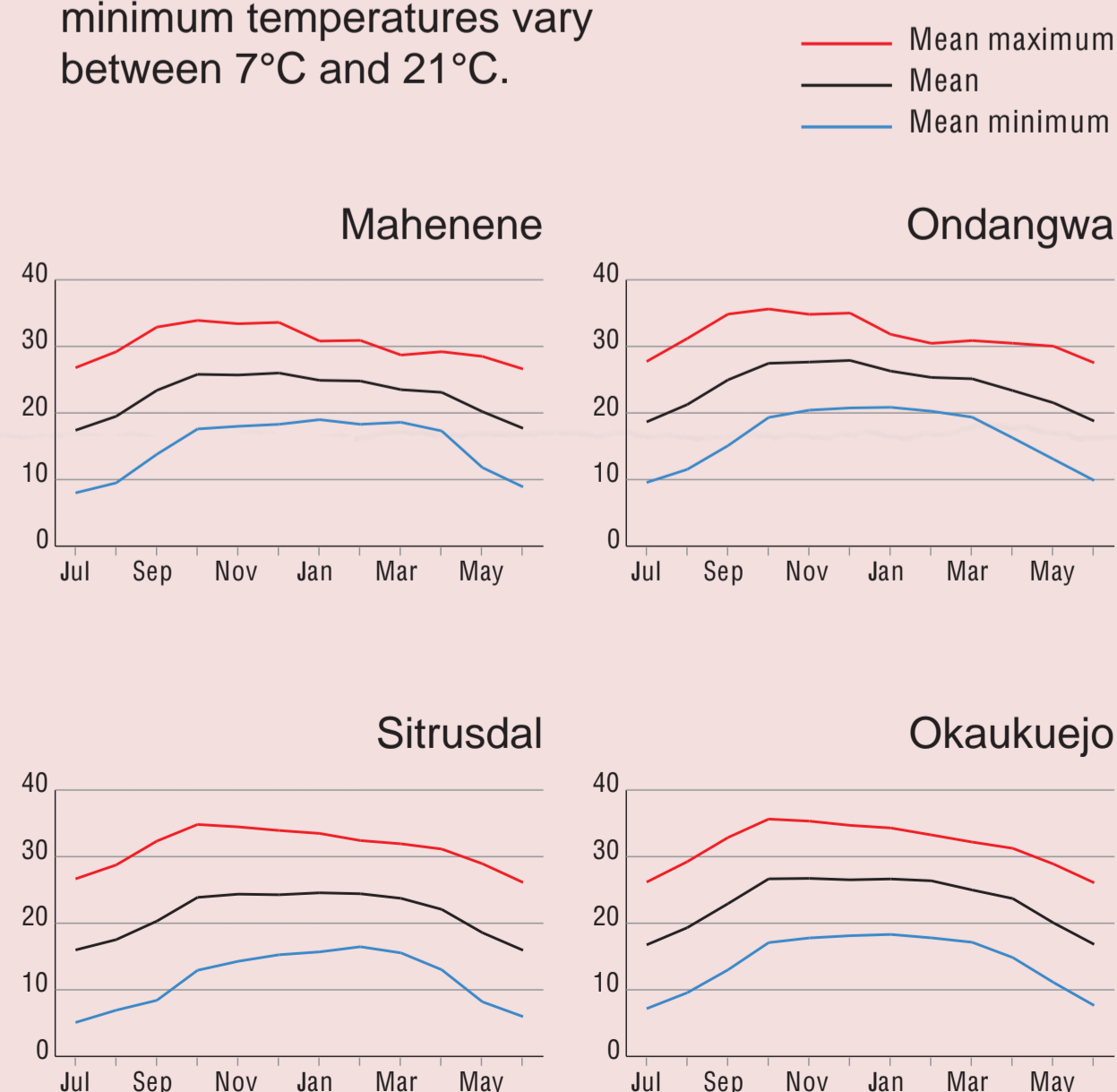
October is the hottest month in the south of the Basin, while further north high temperatures persist from September to December.

Annual average temperature

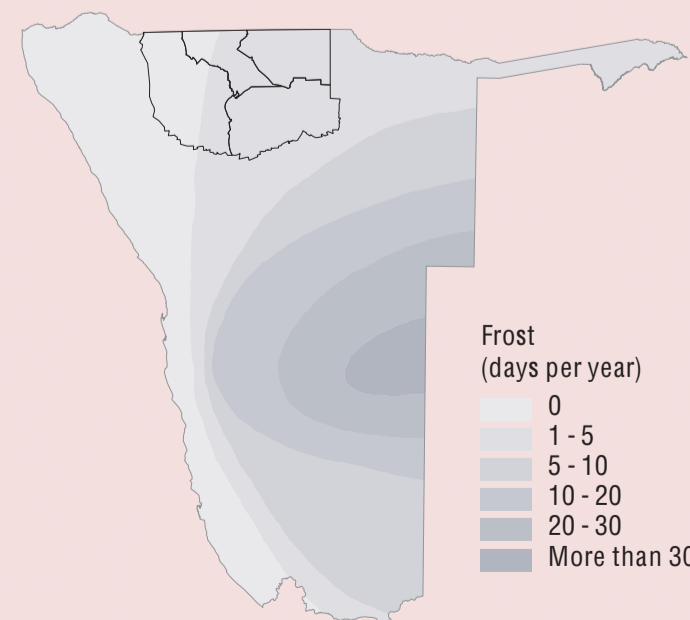


Average, maximum and minimum temperatures during the year

Throughout the year, average maximum temperatures range between 24°C and 36°C while minimum temperatures vary between 7°C and 21°C.

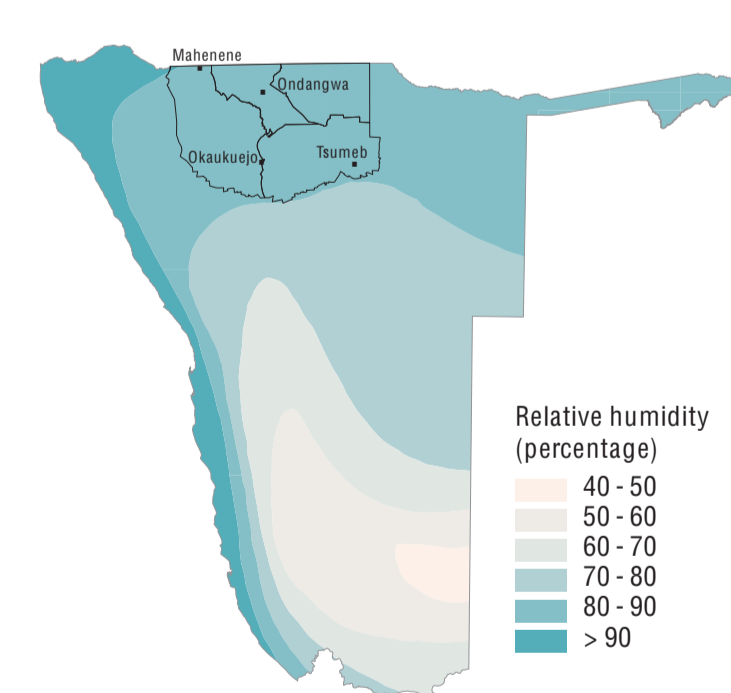


Frost

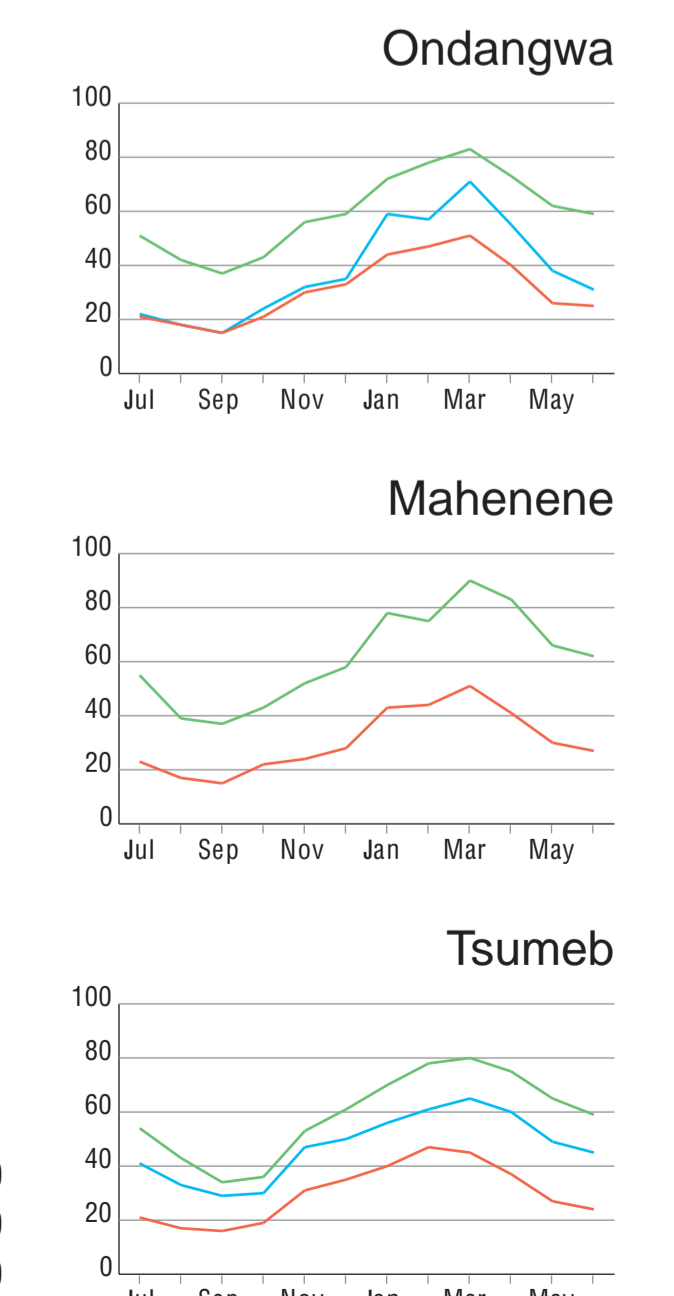


Frost occurs on only about one day per year in the Basin and thus has little impact on plants.

Humidity



Relative humidity (%) at different times of the day



Humidity is a measure of the amount of moisture in the air, and the Basin is usually more humid than areas to the south.

March is the most humid month in the Basin with humidity levels rising to 90%. September is driest with levels less than 20%.